

# 2002 BASE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE INDEX

## TALKING POINTS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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- Academic growth on the Academic Performance Index (API) continues to be the central focus of the Public Schools Accountability Act (PSAA) of 1999.
- The API measures each school's academic performance, sets annual growth targets, determines if growth targets have been met, and identifies eligibility for awards.
- The 2002 API Base reflects the state's increasing emphasis on the California Standards Tests (CSTs) as a primary measure of students' academic achievement. In addition to CST results, API calculations also include California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) results for the first time.
- The California Standards Tests and the CAHSEE, are closely aligned to state content standards for the subjects tested. Our schools are moving as quickly as time and funding allow to fully incorporate state standards into the curriculum and classroom instruction, with textbooks that address the same standards.
- Comparisons cannot be made between the 2002 Base API and the 2002 Growth API, for the new Base API includes results for the CSTs in English-language arts, mathematics and social science and for the CAHSEE that were not used in previous calculations.
- We would anticipate that the 2002 Base API for our schools would be different than the APIs in past years due to the addition of new indicators in the calculations.
- The 2002 API Base Report also shows how each of our schools are performing academically in comparison to other schools in the state that are similar in size and in the student population served. This additional information is particularly helpful as school staffs review their school plans and begin planning for next year.
- We have many English learners who are required to take the STAR tests in English, and their results are included in each school's API. As these students become more proficient in English, they also will improve their performance on these important tests.
- The goal for each of our schools is to insure that all students master the knowledge and skills they need to succeed. Our staffs, students, parents, and community leaders will continue working together to make sure this goal is reached.